



Child & Family

Caring for our Rhode Island Community since 1866

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Rhode Island General Assembly 2021

To: Rhode Island House Finance Committee

From: Marty Sinnott, President & CEO, Child & Family

Cali Boimila, Director, Sandpipers Early Learning Center, Child & Family

Date: April 7, 2021

Re: Support for H-5672, RI Child Care is Essential Act

On behalf of Child & Family and the more than 6,000 Rhode Islanders who we serve annually, we submit this written testimony as our **strong support** for **Bill (H5672) RI Child Care is Essential Act.**

Founded in 1866, the mission of Child & Family is to strengthen Rhode Island families, their members, and the communities in which they live. Child & Family operates Sandpipers Early Learning Center, in Middletown, a Bright Stars rated child care program for more than 120 children annually.

Child & Family also offers a variety of comprehensive services to better help individuals and the entire family cope with numerous complex social problems that require immediate or long-term intervention.

We hope that you can take four minutes to listen to this NPR story <https://twitter.com/horsleyscott/status/1370721993235034112?s=21> that was broadcasted nationally on March 13, 2021 which includes one of our brave Sandpipers Mom's, Nancy and her four year old daughter, Olivia. Nancy honestly and candidly shares how having her daughter in our program has literally re-shaped her family and having access to our high quality Sandpipers Program has allowed her to remain at work throughout the pandemic.

Families need access to affordable, high quality child care so parents can work and their children can grow and thrive through nurturing relationships with educators who provide enriching learning experiences. We can all do this together!

Thank you for considering our Child & Family voice to fully support Bill H-5672, RI Child Care is Essential Act. We know that safe, healthy, and high-quality child care options are essential for young children to learn and grow, essential for our working parents and our RI community, and critical to Rhode Island's economic recovery!

Sincerely,

Marty Sinnott

Marty Sinnott,
President & CEO

Cali Boimila

Cali Boimila
Director, Sandpipers Early Learning Center

Child & Family is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization childandfamilyri.org

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